

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace paragraph [0015] with the following amended paragraph:

[0015] It is the compound plunger 30 included in the drive mechanism 50 of the injector 10 of the present invention that enhances the reliability with which the injector 10 of the present invention provides complete medicament dosing and automatic needle retraction, while allowing the parts of the injector 10 to be fabricated and assembled at tolerances suited to low-cost, high-volume manufacturing processes. The compound plunger 30 provided in the drive mechanism 50 of the injector 10 of the present invention includes an inner plunger 40 and an outer plunger 41, with the inner plunger 40 being movable within a first reservoir 33 formed by the outer plunger 41. The distal end 39 of the inner plunger 40 includes a sealing member, such as a piston 42, that is sealingly engaged with walls 34 of the first reservoir 33. The first reservoir 33 formed by the outer plunger 41 contains a hydraulic fluid 45, and the hydraulic fluid 45 contained within the first reservoir 33 is in fluid communication with a second reservoir 44 via a hydraulic orifice 31, which extends through a wall 34 of the outer plunger 41. The second reservoir 44 is formed between the syringe 24 and the external surface of the outer plunger 41. The proximal boundary of the second reservoir 44 is formed by a sealing member 32, such as an elastomeric o-ring, positioned around the outer plunger 41 and forming a slidable seal between the outer plunger 41 and the syringe 24 of the syringe cartridge 20, and the distal boundary of the second reservoir 44 is defined by the piston 25 that is displaced within the syringe 24 to effect expulsion of the medicament 23.

Please replace paragraph [0016] with the following amended paragraph:

[0016] The inner plunger 40 included in the compound plunger 30 of the drive mechanism 50 can include a decoupling mechanism. As is shown in FIG. 1-FIG. 6, a releasable coupling 43 may be formed integrally with the inner plunger 40. Alternatively, the a releasable coupling 43 can be positioned on or around the inner plunger 40, affixed to the inner plunger 40, or otherwise operatively associated with the inner plunger 40. The releasable coupling 43 illustrated in FIG. 1-FIG. 6 interfaces with the drive member 53 in a manner that allows the drive member 53 to

transfer the force exerted by the energy source 55 to the inner plunger 40. However, the releasable coupling 43 is designed to facilitate decoupling or release of the inner plunger 40 from the drive member 53 after the syringe piston 25 has reached the distal end 29 of the syringe 24 and the outer plunger 41 has ceased travel.

Please replace the Abstract of the Invention with the following amended Abstract:

The present invention includes an automatic injection device that reliably provides automatic needle retraction even when manufactured with part and assembly tolerances typical of low-cost and high-volume manufacturing processes. The injector of the present invention includes a body, a syringe cartridge, a drive mechanism, and a bias mechanism. The drive mechanism includes an energy source, a drive member, and a compound plunger with a releasable coupling. Significantly, the compound plunger included in the drive mechanism is designed to ensure needle retraction occurs after the automatic injection device has delivered the desired ~~the desired~~ dose of medicament. Moreover, the design of the compound plunger included in the injector of the present invention can compensate for part and assembly tolerances typical of low-cost, high volume manufacturing processes, enabling the fabrication of a low cost automatic injection device providing reliable automatic needle retraction.